



Swing Riot Trials

William Olden, 26, John Olden, 50; Henry Thornton, 37; John Sheppard, 20; William Elton, the younger, 23; and William Holmes, 27, were indicted for having feloniously destroyed a thrashing-machine, the property of Jas. Judd, of Newtontoney.

James Judd stated, that on the 23rd November, a mob, consisting of a considerable number of persons, including the prisoners, who were particularly active on the occasion, came to his house, and destroyed his thrashing-machine.

On his cross-examination, he said, that he did not know that the labourers were incited to those lawless acts by any of the farmers in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Justice Alderson said that hereafter the court would be happy, injustice to the prisoners, and in accordance to their own feelings, to receive any mitigatory circumstance; but at present the course pursued by the learned counsel for the prisoner was rather irregular. Mr. Judd, Jnr., corroborated the testimony of his father.

The Rev. Mr. Price, Incumbent of Newtontoney, and another witness, gave John Olden, William Olden, Sheppard, and Elton good characters.

The learned Judge summed up, and the Jury returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners, who were immediately ordered up for judgement. Mr. Justice Alderson, having pointed out to them the enormity of the offence of which they had been convicted, sentenced them all to seven years' transportation. William Holmes said, "Thank you, my Lord."

The prisoners were then removed.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 10 January 1831, Page 3

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2018/Maureen Withey

The following convicts were removed from Fisherton Gaol to Portsmouth, on Wednesday morning:
... John Olden, Henry Thornton, John Sheppard, ...

On Friday morning another gang set out for the same destinations. The following are their names: ...
William Elton, William Holmes, ...

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 24 January 1831